Message

**From**: Mylott, Richard [Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
**Sent**: 6/1/2017 5:06:52 PM
**To**: Moler, Robert [Moler.Robert@epa.gov]; Cirian, Mike [Cirian.Mike@epa.gov]
**CC**: Mutter, Andrew [mutter.andrew@epa.gov]
**Subject**: FW: For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Trying to anticipate OPA sensibilities here, tweaked and sent below. Awaiting approval so stand by. Please feel free to address any inaccuracies with any of changes I made content when communicating with reporter. Thanks to both of you.

**From:** Mylott, Richard
**Sent:** Thursday, June 1, 2017 11:03 AM
**To:** regionalpress <regionalpress@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Mutter, Andrew <mutter.andrew@epa.gov>
**Subject:** For OPA review: Question from Hungry Horse News (Montana) re: wells at Columbia Falls Aluminum co. SF site

Chris Peterson with the Hungry Horse News has questions for Mike Cirian, EPA RPM for the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Superfund site in Montana, regarding some claims made in a recent op-ed about a handful of wells on the site and why those wells were not included in the initial remedial investigation associated with the site (4th paragraph of linked op-ed).

Draft messages:

- The op-ed claims we avoided sampling wells due to known contamination. This is not inaccurate.
- Under the direction EPA, CFAC's investigation is ongoing and will develop comprehensive data and information to identify cleanup needs and inform remedies at the site. We have historical data for these wells and they have not shown that they are the highest contaminated wells.
- These specific wells were not sampled in phase 1, as the wells had the power disconnected and production equipment remains in them. It will take a crane and other equipment to remove the well pumps. These wells also pump at about 1000 gpm, which is not consistent with EPA sampling guidance.
- If sampling these wells becomes important to the ongoing remedial investigation, we will look to address these issues and potentially add the wells into phase 2 of our Remedial Investigation.